

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A remote computer management system comprising:
a plurality of remote computers;
at least one user interface unit coupled to a keyboard, video monitor and cursor control device, said user interface unit comprising circuitry for receiving and transmitting keyboard, cursor control device and video signals; and
a plurality of computer interface units, each of said computer interface units being a ~~unitary-standalone unit which~~ that is co-located with and coupled to ~~a distinct one of said one of~~ the plurality of remote computers in a one to one relationship, and wherein each of said computer interface units ~~comprising~~ comprises circuitry for receiving and transmitting keyboard, cursor control device and video signals, and a signaling circuit for generating at least an audible or visual signal upon detection of a specific event ~~at a coupled~~ transpiring at the remote computer, said signal being generated and broadcast at ~~at least one of said both the coupled computer interface unit and said remote computer coupled to said computer interface unit and said at least one user interface unit;~~ and
a computer management unit which bi-directionally communicates with said user interface unit and each of said computer interface units;
wherein said computer interface unit bi-directionally communicates with said user interface unit over a network.

2.-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit produces a first response in response to said signaling circuit signal and a second response to a second signaling circuit signal.
5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit signal is produced in response to a hardware or software failure on said remote computer.
6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit signal is produced in response to a firmware upgrade on said remote computer.
7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit signal is produced in response to the completion of a firmware upgrade on said computer interface unit.
8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit signal indicates the status of an upgrade to said remote computer.

Claims 9-12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said computer management unit is coupled to each of said computer interface units and enables bi-directional communication among said user interface units and said remote computers.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said user interface unit sends a request to said computer interface unit via said computer management unit.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein said signaling circuit signal is generated in response to said request.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said signaling circuit signal is transmitted to said user interface unit, which displays a notification message on said video monitor upon receipt of said signaling circuit signal.

17. (Currently Amended) A remote device management system comprising:

a plurality of remote interface modules, each said remote interface module being an ~~unitary~~ a standalone unit for physically connecting to keyboard, cursor control device and video cables of one of a plurality of remote devices and for receiving and transmitting keyboard, cursor control device and video signals, each remote interface module being co-located with a corresponding remote device;

a signaling circuit within each of said remote interface ~~module~~ modules responsive to a signaling circuit control signal, wherein said signaling circuit is capable of generating a signal in response to said signaling circuit control signal; and wherein a audible or visual signal is generated at said connected remote interface module and at the at least one user interface device;

at least one management unit coupled to each of said remote interface modules;
and

at least one user interface device coupled to a keyboard, cursor control device, and video monitor for receiving and transmitting keyboard, cursor control device and video signals;

~~wherein the signal is generated at at least one of a connected remote interface module and at the at least one user interface device;~~

wherein said user interface device is capable of producing said signaling circuit control signal; and

wherein each said remote interface module is connected via a single network cable to said management unit.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said response signal indicates the status of said remote devices.

19. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said response signal indicates the status of said remote interface modules.

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein said response signal is transmitted to said user interface device and upon receipt of said response signal, a status message is displayed on said video monitor.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) In a system comprising at least one user interface device and a plurality of remote devices each coupled to a one of a plurality of interface modules, each interface module is a standalone ~~a being~~ distinct physical module that is in a proximate relationship with a corresponding interface module, a method of managing said plurality of remote devices comprising the steps of:

monitoring for events at said plurality of remote devices via said interface module

comprising a signaling circuit;

detecting said event at said interface module;

producing a audible or visual response signal in response to said event detection;

transmitting said signal to said user interface device;

displaying a notification message on a video monitor in response to said transmitted signal; and

emitting a form of the signal at the interface module detecting the event at a coupled remote device;

wherein said notification message indicates an occurrence of said event.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said event includes at least one from the group comprising a firmware upgrade, status update, hardware failure or software failure.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein said signaling circuit produces said response signal.

25. (Currently Amended) A remote computer management system comprising:

a plurality of remote computers;

at least one user interface unit coupled to a keyboard, video monitor and cursor control device, said user interface unit comprising circuitry for receiving and transmitting keyboard, cursor control device and video signals; and

a plurality of computer interface units, each of said computer interface units being ~~an~~ unique ~~a standalone~~ physical unit co-located with and coupled to one of said remote computers, each of said computer interface units comprising circuitry for receiving and transmitting

keyboard, cursor control device and video signals, and a signaling circuit for generating a audible or visual signal upon detection of a specific event, wherein the signal is noticeable at at least one of a coupled remote computer undergoing said specific event and at said at least one user interface unit, wherein said computer interface unit bi-directionally communicates with said user interface unit over a network.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 25, wherein the signal is emitted at a computer interface unit that detected the specific event.